

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 32801 021137Z

17
ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 /011 W
----- 082026

P 021023Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
AMCONSUL SONGKHLA
AMCONSUL UDORN
SECSTATE WASHDC 6735

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 32801

USIAC

FOR IEA AND ICS/D, CINCPAC FOR USIA ADVISOR, CHIANG MAI AND UDORN
FOR BRANCH PAO, STATE FOR CU/EA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS:
SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS -- NOVEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 2, 1976

MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS

I. GOVERNMENT-MEDIA RELATIONS.
THE FIRST PUBLIC STIRRINGS OF MEDIA DISCONTENT WITH THE NEW REGIME

EMERGED THIS WEEK, WITH OPEN CRITICISM BY SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS AND JOURNALISTS' ASSOCIATIONS OF GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS ON THE MEDIA. THE MAIN IRRITANTS WERE A BAN ON USING SPOKEN LANGUAGE (U.E. COLLOQUIALISMS AND SLANG) IN NEWSPAPER REPORTAGE, A REQUIREMENT FOR WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE FOR INTERVIEWS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND A STRICT LIMITATION ON MEDIA ACCESS TO SESSIONS OF THE NATIONAL ADMIN REFORM ASSEMBLY. THE THREE THAI JOURNALIST ASSOCIATIONS PROTESTED THESE RULINGS TO THE GOVT, AND SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS CHIMED IN WITH CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENTAL ATTITUDES AND RED TAPE AS WELL.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 32801 021137Z

THE JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATIONS HAVE ALSO ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO

ALLOW CLOSED NEWSPAPERS TO REOPEN, CITING HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG JOURNALISTS.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL IS REPORTEDLY RECONSIDERING ITS STAND IN THE FACE OF THIS FIRST OPEN AND CONCERTED CRITICISM FROM THE PRESS.

II. QUERY ON USE OF TEAK TRANSMITTER TO EXTENT RTG RADIO COVERAGE. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE RTG SAID IN AN INTERVIEW THIS WEEK THAT PLANS WERE IN MOTION TO EXTEND RADIO THAILAND'S COVERAGE IN ORDER TO COUNTER PROPAGANDA BROADCASTS FROM LAOS AND REACH REMOTE AREAS. A REPORTER ASKED HIM WHY THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT USE THE TEAK TRANSMITTER FOR THE COUNTER-PROPAGANDA EFFORT, AND HE REPLIED THAT OPERATING

COSTS WOULD BE TOO HIGH FOR THE RTG. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ADDED THAT THE TEAK FACILITY WAS GEARED FOR FOREIGN BROADCASTS RATHER THAN DOMESTIC, AND THAT BROADCASTING HOURS WERE ALREADY "TAKEN UP BY PROGRAMS OF THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES."

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

I. POST PRESENTED NOV 30 - DEC 2 VISITING FULBRIGHT SCHOLARDS RICHARD SCHECHNER AND JOAN MACINTOSH IN A PROGRAM SPONSORED IN COOPERATION WITH THE ERASMUS ARTS FACULTY OF CHULALONGKORN AND DESIGNED TO EXPLORE THE DIMENSIONS, STYLE AND PURPOSES OF ENVIRONMENTAL THEATER. REGARDED AS TWO OF THE LEADING PIONEERS AND CHIEF INNOVATORS IN AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL THEATER, SCHECHNER AND MACINTOSH LED SIX FACULTY MEMBERS AND ABOUT 30 STUDENTS THROUGH A SERIES OF LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS WHICH GENERATED REMARKABLE PARTICIPATION AND INTENSE INVOLVEMENT ON THE PART OF THE NORMALLY RETICENT THAI. SCHECHNER LAUNCHED THE THREE DAY PROGRAM WITH A LECTURE WHICH TRACED THE HISTORY, THEORY AND STRUCTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL THEATER. HIS LECTURE, ILLUSTRATED WITH SLIDES, WAS NOTABLE FOR THE HIGH DEGREE OF COMMUNICATION HE ACHIEVED, A TRIBUTE TO HIS OWN KEEN SENSE OF HOW TO CONVEY SOMETIMES COMPLICATED THEATRICAL CONCEPTS TO A FOREIGN AUDIENCE. WITH THE GROUNDWORK LAID AND INTEREST AROUSED, SCHECHNER AND MACINTOSH PRESENTED THREE WORKSHOPS, EACH ABOUT TWO AND HALF HOURS IN LENGTH.

IN THE WORKSHOPS MS. MACINTOSH FIRST INVOLVED STUDENTS AND FACULTY IN A SERIES OF EXERCISES AND IMPROVISATIONS AIMED AT SELF-AWARENESS LEADING TO CREATIVE SELF AND GROUP EXPRESSION. SHY AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGKO 32801 021137Z

FIRST, THE PARTICIPANTS SOON RESPONDED WITH ENTHUSIASM AND A SENSE OF DISCOVERY AND EVEN WONDER. THE EXCITEMENT KINDLED UNDER MACINTOSH'S SKILLFUL DIRECTION CARRIED OVER TO LATER WORKSHOPS AND CULMINATED IN A FINAL SESSION IN WHICH SCHECHNER AND MACINTOSH REVIEWED WITH THE FACULTY THE WORK OF THE PREVIOUS DAYS AND CONDUCTED A "GRADUATION" WORKSHOP FOR THE STUDENTS. UPON REQUEST OF DEPARTMENT HEAD, SODSAI PUNTUKOMOL, SCHECHNER PREPARED A LIST OF PUBLICATIONS DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL

THEATER AND OTHER ASPECTS OF AMERICAN DRAMA. POST WILL ASSIST CHULALONGKORN IN OBTAINING SOME OF THE PUBLICATIONS. POST HAS ALSO BEEN ADVISED THAT FACULTY WILL INCORPORATE SOME OF THE METHODOLOGY TAUGHT BY SCHECHNER AND MACINTOSH INTO DRAMATIC ARTS CURRICULUM.

II. STAFF LECTURER CHALERMPONG JAMERBSIN AND PAT MAJORIE SMITH PRESENTED A PROGRAM ON THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AT PETCHBURI TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGE OUTSIDE BANGKOK NOVEMBER 29. USING THE SAME BASIC FORMAT THEY HAD DEVELOPED IN EXTENSIVE TOURING BEFORE THE OCTOBER 6 COUP, SMITH AND KHUN CHALERMPONG PRESENTED SLIDES TO ILLUSTRATED AN EXPLANATION OF THE POLITICAL PROCESSES LEADING UP TO THE ELECTION FOLLOWED BY A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE CAMPAIGN AND THE APPARENT SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESULTS. A VIDEO-TAPE OF THE AGENCY'S FILMED PROFILE OF CARTER WAS SHOWN, WITH THAI NARRATION. QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE OF STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS INDICATED THEY WERE MOST INTERESTED IN PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S FOREIGN POLICY AND IN THE INTRICACIES OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE SYSTEM. THE VERSATILE KHUN CHALERMPONG HAD JUST RETURNED TO BANGKOK FROM A TOUR WITH CHULALONGKORN PHYSICS LECTURER PRAYOON ROMPO THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH OF THAILAND. IN PROGRAMS ORGANIZED BY SONGKHLA BRANCH POST SENIOR THAI EMPLOYEE DUAL TEJAKAMOL, KHUN CHALERMPONG AND ACHARN PRAYOON DISCUSSED THE VIKING MARS EXPLORATION PROGRAM AT SRI NAKHARINWIROT UNIVERSITY IN SONGKHLA, SONGKHLA TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGE, PRINCE OF SONGKHLA UNIVERSITY AND AT PATTANI AND HAAD YAI, YALA TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGE.

TELEVISION PROGRAMS WERE BROADCAST FROM STATIONS IN HAAD YAI AND PHUKET. A PROGRAM SCHEDULED AT NAKHON SRI THAMMARAT TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGE WAS CANCELLED DUE TO FLOODING IN THE SOUTH.

III. POST CONTINUES TO RECEIVE REQUESTS FROM VARIOUS SEGMENTS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 BANGKO 32801 021137Z

OUR TAREET AUDIENCE TO VIEW VTR OF FIRST POST-ELECTION PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER. CPAO REPRESENTED POST NOV 29 AT SPECIAL SHOWING REQUESTED BY OFFICE OF PM THANI . IN ATTENDANCE WERE 17 MEMBERS OF OFFICE, INCLUDING DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS SEC-GEN BOONCHAI BUMRONGPONG AND AMPHORN CHANTHARAVICHIT SOMSAK TEPAKEM AND DUSIT SIRIWAN, MI ISTER ATTACHED TO PM'S OFFICE. ATTENDEES RECEIVED TRANSCRIPTS OF CONFERENCE, AND OPS PAMPHLET ON CARTER WHICH ARRIVED AT POST DAY OF THE SHOWING. MCGINLEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ullricre
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO32801
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760446-0253
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761276/aaaacodv.tel
Line Count: 163
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS -- NOVEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 2, 1976 MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS I. GOVERNMENT-MEDIA RELATIONS.
TAGS: SOPN, TH
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006